

The Herald

February 10, 2013

Last Sunday after Epiphany

From the Rector: Of Home

For the last several days the refrain in the song that occurs right at the dramatic end of the movie *Places in the Heart* has been running through my mind: "Softly, tenderly Jesus is calling...calling me to come home." The song is not in our hymnal, but it is familiar among congregational circles. It is about our lostness to sin, and our being called by Jesus to return to our rightful place, our true home, abiding in his love. I was one of those children who couldn't spend the night away from home until I reached high school because I got homesick. I would go to a friend's house to spend the night and have to call my parents to come pick me up and take me home. Going off to college was more of a challenge for me because of my homesickness.

Just yesterday I was about to leave the Winn Dixie parking lot, and an obviously homeless man strode past me. His face was red with windburn, his gaze was blank and expressionless, his hair unkempt, his clothes smeared. He walked as if time were of the essence; walked as if there were some unseen purpose towards which he was journeying. He had a full backpack. He never looked at me. He didn't look at anyone. His only semblance of ardor was to persist eastward. He was probably in his thirties...hard to tell. I wondered what might his story be; where he grew up; who his parents were. Were they still alive? Did he have any brothers or sisters? Was he educated? How did he end up this way? Does someone miss him? Is he homesick? How long will he live? He stayed on my mind all day. I don't know why... Just a life among many lives.

Homelessness, of course is an increasingly daunting problem in our culture. Most experts say that a vast percentage of homeless people are either mentally ill, or substance abusers, or both. Also, we know that a great number of them are veterans of war, which in no small way, I'm sure, is connected to their mental state and substance abuse. We see them every day making their way to someplace hidden. They live in a dark world within our world; a parallel existence far from our own, far from home, kept alive by some dark blood of loneliness and indignity; and yet they are part of us, the human community, and when one part of the body suffers, so does the whole of us. There are organizations that tend to the homeless, and All Saints participates in such organizations. We're not solving the problem, but perhaps it is enough for a day to prepare a meal for one of our lost; or enough to provide a week's worth of shelter. There is dignity in those things, and dignity among other things is a blessing for one such as these, a human life, a life loved by God, dignity, some tenuous proof thereof...maybe in our loving these our least, there is an iota of joy given them, perhaps...maybe a memory... a sweet, soft tender memory of home.

On the Calendar:

Tuesday, Feb 5
11:30am All Saints serves @ 15 Place
6pm Rector's Forum & Supper

Wednesday, Feb 6
9:15am L'Arche (Chapel)
12N Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
4pm St Cecelia choir rehearsal
5:30pm Trinity Choristers
7pm All Sts & Trinity Adult choirs rehearsal

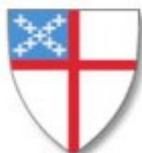
Thursday, Feb 7
12N Al-Anon
7pm AA

Saturday, Feb 9
10:30am PFLAG

Sunday, Feb 10
8am All Sts Holy Eucharist, Chapel
8am Trinity Holy Eucharist, Church
8:45am Breakfast, Stirling Hall
9:15am Trinity Holy Eucharist
9:30am All Sts Adult Xian Ed
NO All Sts Youth Xian Ed
10:45am Trinity Christian Ed
11am All Sts Holy Eucharist
Reception following

Tuesday, Feb 12
OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, Feb 13
ASH WEDNESDAY
9:15am L'Arche (Chapel)
12N HE & Imposition of Ashes (Church)
6pm Imposition of Ashes
7pm All Sts & Trinity Adult choirs rehearsal



The Episcopal Church welcomes you

The next Rector's Forum and potluck supper will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 6pm in the Saad Room of the Parish Hall. Supper begins at 6 and discussion follows at 6:30. If you are interested in being confirmed or received, this is the place to prepare for the Bishop's visitation. Call Jim to let him know -- 438-2492.

There will be NO Youth Sunday School this Sunday, Feb 10. It will resume next Sunday, Feb 17 at 10:00am.

The EYC will eat lunch (courtesy of Chris Conte) in Stirling Hall immediately after the 11:00 service this Sunday, and from there walk down to Broad Street to watch the Joe Cain Day Parade. It would be nice to have some parents join us as well, to help supervise the kids. After the parade, the group will walk back to All Saints for pick up around 4pm.



Stewardship Report We have exceeded \$450,000 in pledges for 2013! Thanks to Don Mosley for a successful campaign, and thank you for your kind generosity in giving!

Daily Meditation Booklets from Episcopal Relief and Development will be available this Sunday and following on the table by the door to the breezeway and on the table by the volunteer desk. This year's Lenten Meditations are a journey of prayer and reflection to guide our discovery of how we can help alleviate hunger and improve the food supply around the world, through God's abundance in our own lives. Co-authored by a group of leaders from across The Episcopal Church, our writers bring particular theological and spiritual perspectives as they ruminate on their favorite scripture passages and other sources of spiritual wisdom.

Also available will be Hope Chest boxes - a great way to introduce children to the idea of sharing to help others, but also great for adults; put your pocket change in the box at the end of the day and see how much your offering grows!

Our prayers are offered for Amanda Rahm and her family at the death of her father, Arthur Johnson, last week.

Thanks to those who have donated glass bowls for Stirling Hall. We have received several to help replace the broken ones.

You are invited to join a Dialogue on Christian Education at All Saints, Sunday, Feb. 17 at 9am in Stirling Hall. This gathering is open to everyone. Come when you can, stay as long as you can. This is the first step in the Task Force on Christian Education's work in response to the Appreciative Inquiry process. Let us know what kinds of classes and programs you have enjoyed and what you would like to see offered at All Saints. The focus is Christian education for adults and young people, from classes and programs to visiting speakers and retreats, and whatever else inspires you. If you want to know more, contact Woody Hannum (ehannum@usouthal.edu).

Pizza and a Movie On Sunday, Feb. 24, there will be a showing of segment 2 of Rob Gray's film *Mobile in Black and White*. Pizza will served at 6pm and the film will begin at 6:30pm in the Walter K. Smith Room. Everyone is invited to come!

Saturday, March 2 has been set as a parish work morning, starting at 9am. Activities include cleaning out closets, weeding, trimming and general sprucing up inside and out. Please mark your calendars. Remember, many hands make light work (and it's more fun that way)!



 **Revamped Food Share Program Ready to Go!** All Saints' Food Share Program has a new look! Beginning in February, we will offer Senior Food Share for folks who are 62 and over, and who live in zip codes 04 and 05. Here's the schedule: setting up food pallets on Thursday, Feb 14, 9am. Packing food bags is Friday evening, Feb 15, at 5:30pm; distribution is Saturday, Feb 16, (3rd Saturday of the month) beginning at 8am, although volunteers still need to come earlier on Saturday, around 7:30am. Come and join us!



The forty days of Lent provide a time to reflect on our Christian faith and prepare ourselves for the celebration and season of Easter. It is a time for us to prayerfully consider how we can unite in healing a hurting world. The season offers us the opportunity to reflect on our lives, our relationships with our neighbors, and the larger world as we move toward the celebration of Christ's resurrection and the season of Easter.

We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13, with two services: Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes is at 12noon in the church; Imposition of Ashes only is at 6pm, also in the church.

The Lenten Wednesday Program will be a joint one, shared with All Saints and Trinity congregations, beginning Feb. 20, with worship, supper and two different classes. The schedule is as follows:

- 6:00pm - Taizé worship in the Chapel
- 6:30pm - Supper in Stirling Hall
- 7:00pm - Classes (Childcare will be provided)

Here is a description of the two classes: (You are welcome to choose either class no matter which church you attend.)

For the past year in our liturgy at All Saints, we have been using collects (opening prayers) written by Stephen Shakespeare from his collection entitled Prayers for an Inclusive Church. Shakespeare is a priest in the Church of England, associate director for The Center for the Study of Ecclesiology at Liverpool University and a formidable scholar. His collects are written in contemporary language and seek to capture thematic elements contained in the appointed scripture of the day following the three year cycle of the lectionary; but perhaps more importantly, these incisive collects many times call us to a response or to action. For our Lenten program this year we will use these collects and the appointed scripture from the previous Sunday as a springboard for a discussion about contemporary issues that we face as people of faith, (local, regional, national and international) and what we have to say or do about such issues as we discern what God might be saying to us through the words of our worship.

– Led by *The Rev. Jim Flowers and The Rev. Mary Robert*

- Do you ever wish that there were 30 hours in a day so that you might have more time to get everything done? For all people, but especially those with children, we hear the word “balance” all the time – how to live right physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Balance means how to take care of ourselves and the business of our lives and find joy in what we do. But how is this possible? Is there anyone who really does it? While it is a difficult goal to achieve, finding a way to take care of ourselves so that we may take care of others is a central aspect of the Christian life. This discussion centers on how we make decisions, on how we choose our commitments, on how we cope with our responsibilities, and what the Scriptures and the Church have to say about this. Do not come looking to hear how to live a perfect life; come looking to learn how we may better live faithfully and abundantly so that we may grow ever deeper into our mission of serving God and one another – and thus feed our own souls in the process.

– Led by *The Rev. Bailey Norman*

Preparation of suppers for those five weeks will also be shared with the Trinity congregation. All Saints will serve on Feb. 20, Mar. 6 and Mar. 20. The Vestry will provide supper the first Wednesday and the Adult Choir will provide it on Mar. 6. We need another group to step up to fix supper on the last Wednesday, Mar. 20. Please call or email Mary Robert to volunteer your group: 438-2492 or asstrector@allsaintsmobile.org.

The Holy Week schedule of services will be in next week's Herald. Stay tuned!

The Reverend Absalom Jones, 1746-1818



[This famous image of Jones was rendered by Philadelphia artist Raphaelle Peale in 1810.](#)

Absalom Jones was America's first black priest. Born into slavery in Delaware at a time when slavery was being debated as immoral and undemocratic, he taught himself to read, using the New Testament as one of his resources. At the age of 16, Jones was sold to a shopkeeper in Philadelphia where he attended a night school for blacks, operated by Quakers. He was also allowed to work for himself in the evenings and keep his earning. He was married in 1770. By the time Jones was 38 years old, he had purchased his wife's freedom, and his own, and had bought a house. Later he built two more houses and used them for rental income. Following the purchase of his own freedom in 1784, Jones served as lay minister for the black membership at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church.

During this period he met Richard Allen, and they became lay preachers in St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church and life-long friends. Their efforts met with great success, and the congregation multiplied tenfold. The active evangelism of Jones and that of his friend, Richard Allen, greatly increased black membership at St. George's. Alarmed by the rise in black attendance, the vestry decided to segregate blacks into an upstairs gallery without notice. When ushers attempted to remove the black congregants, the resentful group exited the church. This exodus triggered the establishment of the Free African Society by Jones and Allen in 1787 to aid in the emancipation of slaves and to offer sustenance and spiritual support to widows, orphans, and the poor.

In 1794 Jones and Allen, with the assistance of local Quakers and Episcopalians, established the "First African Church" in Philadelphia. Absalom Jones led his African Church in applying to Bishop William White for membership in the Episcopal Church. On Sunday, September 14, 1794, the congregation was received into the fellowship and communion of the diocese of Pennsylvania, laying before the diocese three requirements: the Church must be received as an already organized body; it must have control over its own affairs; and Jones must be licensed as lay-reader and if qualified, ordained as its minister.

Upon acceptance into the Diocese of Pennsylvania, the church was renamed the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. The following year Jones became a deacon but was not ordained a priest until 1804, nine years later. At 58 years old, he became the first black American priest. He continued to be a leader in his community, founding a day school (as blacks were excluded from attending public school), the Female Benevolent Society, and an African Friendly Society. In 1800 he called upon Congress to abolish the slave trade and to provide for gradual emancipation of existing slaves. Jones died on February 13, 1818. In 1973, the 64th General Convention of the Episcopal Church added his name to the Church calendar as an optional feast to be celebrated. In November, 2012, the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas celebrated its 220th anniversary as a parish. [\[Sources\]](#)

Collect of the Day for Absalom Jones: *Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Note: The celebration of Absalom Jones in the Episcopal Calendar of Holy Women, Holy Men is usually held on Feb. 13. This year, Ash Wednesday overrides the observation on that date.

Sunday, February 10, 2013
Last Sunday after Epiphany

The Lessons

[Exodus 34:29-35](#)

[Psalm 99](#)

[2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2](#)

[Luke 9:28-43a](#)

The Collect of the Day

God unknown and sheltered by our poor constructs: open us to moments when heaven overshadows time and robs us of empty words: in the moment of silence help us to listen to the Chosen One, who goes to die that we might live, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Those Who Serve

Altar Guild: Suzanne Drew, Burl Ratcliffe, LaVada Raouf, Johnna Rogers, Margaret Winkler, Kay Montgomery
Bread Bakers: Beth Hardaway, Lillian Carsten
Flower Guild: Suzanne Drew, Becky Wilson
Breakfast: Jean Tucker, Burl Ratcliffe, Kay Montgomery, Margaret Winkler
Reception: Jean Tucker

8:00am

Lector: Jeff Clearman
Intercessor: Larry Hallett
Chalice: Serena Willcox
Ushers: Will English, Mark Taylor
Greeter: Renee Dillard

11:00am

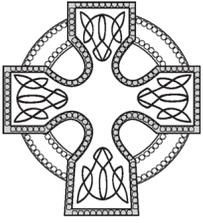
Lectors: Melanie Petithory, Debi Foster
Intercessor: Hank Caddell
Chalices: Clayton Ryan, Ruth LaMonte
Acolytes: Mark Williams, Sarah Frances Greene, Emily Doyle
Ushers: Curt Doyle, Doug Greene, Douglas Greene

Music

Voluntary Healey Willan – *Prelude on “Carlisle”*
Processional Hymn 137 *Wareham*
Craig Phillips – *Festival Eucharist, Gloria in Excelsis Deo*
Anglican Chant Percy Whitlock – *Psalm 99*
Sequence Hymn 133 *Elmhurst*
Jeffrey Rickard – *The Nicene Creed*
Offertory Anthem Charles Wood – *God Omnipotent Reigneth*
Presentation Hymn 129 *Mowsley*
Craig Phillips – *Festival Eucharist, Sanctus & Benedictus qui venit*
Craig Phillips – *Festival Eucharist, Agnus Dei*
Communion Hymn 314 *Adoro devote*
Motet Aleksandr Kopylow – *Heavenly Light*
Post Communion Hymn 122 *Westminster Abbey*
Processional Percy Whitlock – *Hymn-Prelude “St. Denio”*

Please keep in your prayers:

✦ For healing for: Cheryl Winters-Heard, Dorothy Clark, Dot Douglas, Mackenzie Petersen, Becky Park, Tom Wilson, Glenda Bazzell, Nancy Hartley, Shannon Lord, Mit Kopf, Thad Mauldin, Sybil Wilson, Nate Smith, Francis Argulewicz, Nancy Golson Smith, Charlie Myers, Trinity Church, Nancy Quittmeyer, Jeff Jenks, Regina Slayton, James Henry LeBatard, Julie Tadlock, Eleanor Mae Hunt, David Leff, Brittany, Angelo Harris, Melanie Wright, Jack Ratcliffe, Steven Bodiford, Walter Sims, Alan Grubbs, Mitch Price, Austin Brown, Barbara Deming, John Stephens, David Barrineau, Johnny Madden, Brian Hammond, Heather and family, Martha Collier, JoAnn Pappas, Dunn Chandler, Scott Podstata, Abraham Kuol, Roy Muth, Jim Gray, Jane Arnau, Jessica Montalvo-Lopez, Evina Valera, Ed Givhan, LaNiece Bland, Sharon Cleverdon, Patsy Childress, Anna Marie Brown, Laura
✦ For those who serve in the armed forces, especially: Spencer Abbot, Matt Abbot, Jonathan Carter, DeMario Snead
✦ For those who have died, especially Arthur Johnson



All Saints Church

151 SOUTH ANN STREET
MOBILE, AL 36604

www.allsaintsmobile.org

Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan II, Bishop
Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

The Rev. James B. Flowers, Jr., Rector
rector@allsaintsmobile.org

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The Rev. Mary C. Robert, Assistant Rector
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Office: 438.2492 Cell: 458.8581

All Saints Church Staff

Jeff Clearman, Principal Parish Musician
jeff@allsaintsmobile.org

Mary Holbrook, Financial Administrator
mary@allsaintsmobile.org

Office Volunteer
office@allsaintsmobile.org

Irene Raymond, Parish Sexton

Gretchen Thiel and Aguol Kuot, Nursery Workers
Breck Pappas, Director of Youth Ministries

All Saints 2012 Vestry

Joe Basenberg

Ricky Bradford, Jr Warden

Henry Callaway, Sr Warden

Hank Caddell

Valerie Case, Clerk

Richard Coarsey

Chris Conte

Elizabeth Doyle

James Hamilton

Woody Hannum

Amy Hunter

Emily Kelley

Don Mosley

Burl Ratcliffe

Clayton Ryan

Curt Doyle, Treasurer

All Saints Committee Chairs

Acolytes: The Rev. Mary Robert

Addiction & Recovery: Becky Wilson

Adult Christian Education: The Rev. Jim Flowers

Altar Guild: Betty Bentley, Melanie Petithory

Choirs: Jeff Clearman

Community Ministries: Matt McDonald

Constitution & By Laws: Pete Mackey

Episcopal Youth (EYC): Breck Pappas

Finance Committee: Curt Doyle

Flower Guild: Katharine Flowers

Food Share: Mark Taylor, Burl Ratcliffe

Golden Circle: Laura Rutherford, Wylly Stirling

Hospitality & Events: Jean Tucker

IHN/Family Promise: Henry Brewster

Lay Eucharistic Visitors: Bill Evatt

Lectors, Intercrossors & Chalice Ministers: The Rev. Mary Robert

Long-Range Planning: Curt Doyle

Nursery: Elizabeth Doyle, Amy Hunter, Jim Ayres

Parish Development: Clark Kelly

Property: Ricky Bradford

Refugees: Martha Harris

Ushers: Harold Dodge, Louie Wood

Stewardship: Don Mosley, All Saints Vestry

Wedding Guild: Betty Bentley

Youth Christian Education: The Rev. Mary Robert

All Saints Episcopal Church

151 South Ann Street, Mobile, AL 36604 www.allsaintsmobile.org

Service Schedule

Sundays	8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Breakfast 9:20 am Christian Education Classes (during school year) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
Wednesdays	12 Noon Holy Eucharist (Chapel)